Landforms and Oceans

5.3 The student will demonstrate an understanding of features, processes, and changes in Earth's land and oceans. (Earth Science)

5-3.3 Compare continental and oceanic landforms.
Taxonomy level: 2.6-B Understand Conceptual Knowledge

Previous/Future knowledge: In 3rd grade (3-3.6), students illustrated Earth's continental landforms, including volcanoes, mountains, valleys, canyons, caverns, and islands. In 5th grade (5-3.2), students illustrated landforms found on the ocean floor. Students should be able to make a comparison between these two types of landforms.

It is essential for students to know that Earth is made of solid land. Some of the land is located above Earth's water and some is located below the oceans. However, there are similarities and differences between the landforms found on the continents and those found on the ocean floor.

NOTE TO TEACHER: Students need to base comparisons of continental and oceanic landforms on content from previous learning and other indicators.

Continental and Oceanic Landforms		
Description	**Continental**	**Oceanic**
Low land between hills or mountains	Valley	Rift
Deep valley with high steep sides	Canyon	Trench
An opening in the surface from which lava flows	Volcano	Seamount and Volcanic islands
Land which rises high above the ground	Mountain range	Mid-ocean ridge
Wide, flat areas of land	Plains	Abyssal plains

It is not essential for students to know a comparison of other features or compare how these features are made.

Assessment Guidelines:
The objective of this indicator is to *compare* continental and oceanic landforms; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to detect ways that these objects are alike and different. However, appropriate assessments should also require students to *identify* the landform as continental or oceanic; or *exemplify* the landforms by their locations.